

~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ACTION PRECEDENCE

ROUTINE

INFO PRECEDENCE

ROUTINE

SPECIAL HANDLING

~~NOFORN~~

DISTRIBUTION

FROM: DIRNSA

DATE: 2 FEB 68

TO: SSO DIA (ATTN: DIAPL-4)

INFO: CHAIRMAN JCS
JCS (JRC)

*Return pls
or*

DIR
ADP
P2
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M5
D32
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B1
P04
ADNSG

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DIR- 43

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF PUEBLO LOSS

MY DIR-21-68 AND DIR-22-68 REFER.

FURTHER NSA ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF COMSEC
AND SIGINT ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PUEBLO
INCIDENT HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING UPDATED REPORT
WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE OF
THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 1 FEBRUARY BY
THE DIRECTOR OF NSA.

D4

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

QUOTE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY ACTIVITIES ARE
CENTERED ABOUT TWO MAJOR PURPOSES: ONE IS TO MAINTAIN
THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS, AND
SECOND IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS
OF TARGET NATIONS. THE "BILL OF DESTRUCTION" COVERING
THE EQUIPMENT OF THE PUEBLO PROVIDED FOR DESTRUCTION OF

DRAFTER

RELEASING OFFICER

Marshall S. Carter

RELEASED AT (ZULU)

DOCUMENT MARKING

MARSHALL S. CARTER, LTGEN, USA
DIRECTOR

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

AGI NR.

Approved for Release by NSA on 05-28-2013, FOIA Case # 63391

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02120/02

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021716Z

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DOCID: 4053049

NSA FORM N2288 REV SEP 65
(Supersedes N2288 REV AUG 65
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KEY CARDS AND KEY LISTS, THEN OF THE EQUIPMENT, THEN CODES AND AUTHENTICATION MATERIALS, AND FINALLY MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING MANUALS. WHILE IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE TO HAVE ELECTRONIC AUTOMATIC DETONATION GEAR, THE PUEBLO WAS NOT SO EQUIPPED. THE HAZARDS OF AUTOMATIC DETONATION EQUIPMENT ON BOARD A SHIP ARE WEIGHED AGAINST OTHER METHODS OF DESTRUCTION AND THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE FROM COMPROMISE, AND ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE.

FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS IT HAS BEEN THE GENERAL U.S. PRACTICE THAT, WHERE POSSIBLE, SECURITY OF U.S. COMMUNICATIONS WILL NOT DEPEND SOLELY ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF THE EQUIPMENT USED TO ENCIPHER AND DECIPHER THE MESSAGES. DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS NO EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN PRODUCED WITHOUT VARIABLES WHICH DEPEND UPON KEYING ELEMENTS, USUALLY KEY LISTS OR KEY CARDS, FOR THEIR PRIMARY SECURITY. IN PARTICULAR, ALL THE COMMUNICATION SECURITY EQUIPMENTS WHICH THE PUEBLO CARRIED DEPENDED UPON EITHER KEY LISTS OR KEY CARDS. LOSS OF A PARTICULAR EQUIPMENT WITH THE KEYING ELEMENT WOULD NOT

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JEOPARDIZE ANY OTHER TRAFFIC ENCIPHERED BY SIMILAR EQUIPMENTS USING DIFFERENT KEYING ELEMENTS. AS SOON AS NOTIFICATION OF THE CAPTURE OF THE PUEBLO WAS RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON, STEPS WERE TAKEN TO SUPERSEDE ALL KEYING ELEMENTS WHICH SHE CARRIED AND NEW ONES WERE PRESCRIBED.

THE KEY LIST ENABLES THE USER TO ESTABLISH A UNIQUE MACHINE SET-UP FOR A CRYPTO PERIOD WHICH IS NOT LONGER THAN 24 HOURS. THE KEY CARD IS A CARD PUNCHED WITH A SPECIFIED PATTERN AND IS INSERTED INTO THE MACHINE BY MEANS OF A CARD HOLDER. THE KEY CARD AND HOLDER PERMIT FEELER PINS TO MAKE CONTACT THROUGH RANDOMLY POSITIONED HOLES AND EFFECTIVELY REWIRE THE CIPHER MACHINES, AGAIN NOT LESS OFTEN THAN EACH 24 HOURS. THE NUMBER OF COMBINATIONS RESULTING FROM A CARD SYSTEM IS ASTRONOMICAL AND A MESSAGE WHICH IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH A MACHINE USING A PARTICULAR KEYING ELEMENT CAN ONLY BE READ AT THE OTHER END BY A MACHINE WITH AN IDENTICAL KEYING ELEMENT.

IT IS THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY'S JUDGMENT THAT NO DEGRADATION TO THE SECURITY OF OTHER U.S. COMMUNICATIONS CAN RESULT FROM THIS COMPROMISE EVEN IF THE EQUIPMENT

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AND THE KEY LISTS WERE CAPTURED INTACT, SINCE STEPS WERE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO SUPERSEDE ALL OF THE KEYING MATERIALS. IN THE WORST POSSIBLE CASE, THE FEW MESSAGES TO AND FROM THE PUEBLO COULD BE READ IF ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT WERE CAPTURED INTACT.

MESSAGE TRAFFIC FROM THE PUEBLO, AS WELL AS FROM THE NORTH KOREANS, INDICATED A DESTRUCTION EFFORT ON BOARD THE VESSEL BY FIRE AS WELL AS JETTISONING. FROM HER COMMUNICATIONS, IT MAY BE INFERRED THAT THE BULK OF HER KEY MATERIAL, PERHAPS ALL, AND AS MUCH EQUIPMENT AS POSSIBLE WAS DESTROYED, BUT THAT SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS WERE PROBABLY COMPROMISED. WE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT UNTIL THE CREW IS RELEASED AND DEBRIEFED.

ON THE INTELLIGENCE SIDE, THE PUEBLO CARRIED A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF COLLECTION GEAR TO ENABLE HER TO MONITOR NORTH KOREAN COMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR FACILITIES ON THE EAST COAST [REDACTED]

(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

[REDACTED] THIS EQUIPMENT WAS GENERALLY UNCLASSIFIED (FOUR PIECES CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL) BUT THE USE TO WHICH THE EQUIPMENT

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COULD BE PUT AND THE RESULTS DERIVED THEREFROM ARE
CLASSIFIED. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT IF THE EQUIPMENT WAS
UNDAMAGED A REASONABLY PRECISE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE
PUEBLO'S INTELLIGENCE MISSION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

IN ADDITION TO THE EQUIPMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE,
THE PUEBLO CARRIED A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF TECHNICAL
PUBLICATIONS AND ANALYTICAL AIDS REQUIRED TO ENABLE HER TO
DISCHARGE THE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION MISSION. IF THESE
ITEMS WERE CAPTURED INTACT, THEY WOULD GIVE THE NORTH
KOREANS PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT OF U.S.
KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR COMMUNICATIONS TECHNIQUES, USAGE,
AND RADAR EQUIPMENTS. THE PUBLICATIONS ALSO REVEAL A
MORE LIMITED U.S. KNOWLEDGE OF THE GENERAL SOVIET COM-
MUNICATIONS PRACTICES [REDACTED]

(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

[REDACTED] THIS INFORMATION, IF COMPROMISED, WOULD
STIMULATE EITHER OF THE TWO NATIONS TO CHANGE THEIR
COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICES, SUPERSEDE THEIR CALL SIGN
SYSTEMS AND/OR MODIFY THEIR OPERATIONAL CODES.

ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS

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SECURITY EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS IN NO WAY WILL
COMPROMISE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS, IT NONETHELESS
HAS THIS SERIOUS ASPECT. [REDACTED]

(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

THE CAPTURE OF THE MODERN U.S. COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY
EQUIPMENTS OR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS MANUALS
COULD STIMULATE ONE OR OTHER OF THESE COUNTRIES (OR
POSSIBLY COMMUNIST CHINA) TO MAKE MAJOR CHANGES IN
THEIR COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICES.
THIS COULD VERY SERIOUSLY HAMPER [REDACTED] U.S.
SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION ON THESE NATIONS IN
THE FUTURE.

THERE WERE THIRTY (TWENTY-NINE ENLISTED AND ONE
OFFICER) NAVY SECURITY PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE SHIP.
MOST OF THESE MEN AND OFFICERS WERE HIGHLY SKILLED
AND REPRESENTED SEVERAL YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE
BUSINESS. SOME OF THEM HAD INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF A
NUMBER OF SENSITIVE NAVY COLLECTION AND ANALYTIC

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EFFORTS AND A FEW OF THEM HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF ONE
 OR TWO SENSITIVE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY PROJECTS.
 DEPENDING ON THE DURESS TO WHICH THEY MAY BE SUBJECTED
 AND THE AMOUNT THEY MAY RECALL, SERIOUS COMPROMISE OF
 SEVERAL HIGHLY CLASSIFIED PROJECTS COULD ENSUE FROM
 THEIR INVOLUNTARY REVELATION OF THE SCOPE OF THE U.S.
 SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE EFFORT. THIS COULD RESULT IN
 DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY THE SOVIETS TO DENY THE U.S.
 FURTHER INFORMATION.

HOWEVER, NO DAMAGE TO OUR OWN COMMUNICATIONS
 SECURITY WOULD FOLLOW EVEN FROM THE FORCEFUL EXTRACTION
 OF INFORMATION FROM CAPTURED PERSONNEL. UNQUOTE.

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